

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 33 were pending in the application at the time of examination.

The specification is amended to correct minor typographical errors.

Claims 1, 18, 24, and 29 are amended as further described herein. Claims 11 and 27 are cancelled without prejudice.

Applicants submit the amendments are supported in the application as filed, and that no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application.

Claims 1-10, 12-26, and 28-33 are presented for examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action at page 11, the Examiner stated "Claims 30-33 are allowed over prior art". Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 30-33.

Objections

In the Office Action at page 11, the Examiner stated Claims 11, 12, 14-23, 27 and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 11 and to correspond to allowed Claim 30. Consequently, Claim 11 is cancelled, and Claim 18, which originally depended from Claim 11, is amended to now depend from Claim 1 and provide proper dependency. Applicants respectfully submit Claim 1 as amended overcomes the Examiner's objection and is allowable. As Claims 14-23 depend from amended Claim 1, Applicants

respectfully submit Claims 14-23 also overcome the Examiner's objections and are allowable.

Claim 24 is amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 27. Consequently, Claim 27 is cancelled, and Claim 29, which originally depended from Claim 27, is amended to now depend from Claim 24 and provide proper dependency. Applicants respectfully submit Claim 24 as amended overcomes the Examiner's objection and is allowable. As Claim 29 now depends from amended Claim 24, Applicants respectfully submit Claim 29 also overcomes the Examiner's objection and is allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to each of Claims 11, 12, 14-23, 27 and 29.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

In the Office Action at page 2, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-10, 13, 24-26 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Muttick et al., U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0023864A1.

Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 24 as earlier described with regard to the Examiner's objections and thus Applicants submit the amendments render the anticipation rejections of Claims 1 and 24 moot. As Claims 2-10 and 13 depend from amended Claim 1, and as Claims 25-26 and 28 depend from amended Claim 24, Applicants submit the anticipation rejections of these dependent claims are also rendered moot.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejections of each of Claims 1-10, 13, 24-26 and 28.

Conclusion

Claims 1-10, 12-26, and 28-33 remain in the application. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner has any

questions relating to the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant(s).

Request for Examiner Interview

Should the Examiner be of the opinion that this amendment does not place the Application in a condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request an Examiner interview prior to issuance of the next communication from the USPTO to expedite prosecution.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 26, 2007.


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July 26, 2007
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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